

# Regional Roads Victoria

## Reducing delays in Barwon Heads

Summary of traffic improvements

May 2019

# Barwon Heads

## Pedestrian Improvement project

Regional Roads Victoria delivered pedestrian improvements in Barwon Heads that:

- Improved pedestrian safety and priority.
- Improved amenity.
- Increased the number of people walking and cycling around town.
- Maintained the desired attributes of the township.
- But increased travel times.

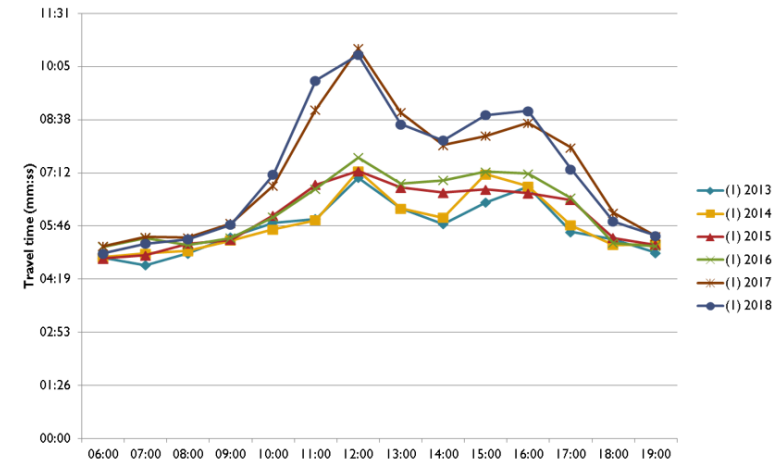


# Barwon Heads

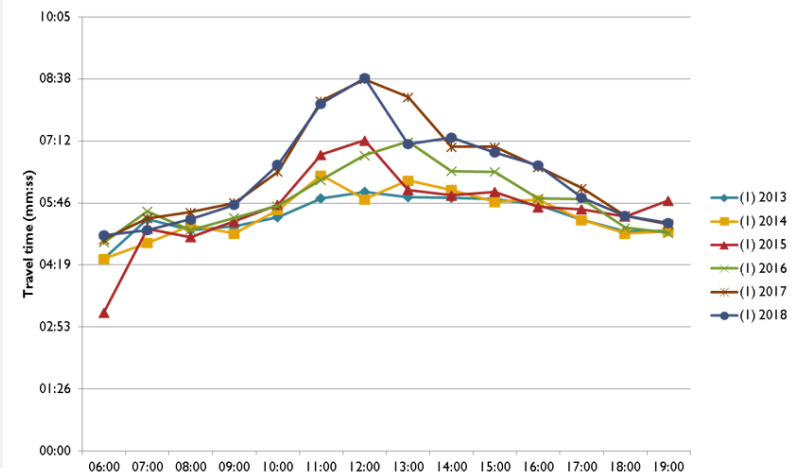
## Traffic stops when summer heats up

- An average 3 minute increase in travel time from Ocean Grove (up to 20 mins extra).
- An average 1 minute increase in travel time from Geelong (up to 8 mins extra).
- Delays likely a combination of traffic growth and delays at the Bridge Road pedestrian crossing.
- Since 2015, travel time recordings were showing a growing problem.

7 day  
Average Travel Time  
26<sup>th</sup> Dec – 14<sup>th</sup> Jan  
West Bound



7 day  
Average Travel Time  
26<sup>th</sup> Dec – 14<sup>th</sup> Jan  
East Bound



# Tackling Congestion

## Improvements delivered in time for Summer 2018/19

RRV implemented a number of actions to improving travel times in December 2018:

- (Action 1) Traffic controllers at the Bridge Road pedestrian crossing
- (Action 2) Traveller information via VMS board
- (Action 3) Building left turn lane at the Ewing Blythe Drive roundabout



## Action 1 : Traffic Controllers

Able to hold pedestrians to ensure traffic can flow with confidence past the crossing point.

Provided an ability to be flexible with timing of control, maximising efficiency of Bridge Road.

### What we learned

Hotter days needed traffic controllers to stay on site after 4pm.

After the 13<sup>th</sup> January:

- Weekdays the traffic controllers did not have a significant impact
- Weekends the traffic controllers were valuable

In February:

- Hot weekends and public holiday weekends would benefit from traffic controllers

The community appreciated traffic controllers with high energy





## Action 2: Monitoring system



Figure 2: Key Routes and Proposed Device and VMS Locations



## Action 2: Travel time information and deployment of monitoring

RRV implemented a detection system and VMS board at the Orton Street roundabout in Ocean Grove.

VMS board was identified as being accurate.

There was no identifiable shift in traffic to Wallington Road during busy times.

The system allowed us to gather data about traffic travelling around Barwon Heads.

### What we learned

Nice to have but no change to travel patterns.  
Difficult location to place a sign.

### Action 3: Left turn lane at Ewing Blythe Drive

The left turn lane proved valuable in ensuring traffic continued to flow across the bridge.

Traffic could store out of the way while waiting for traffic in front to clear or the pedestrian crossing to clear.

Concerns regarding the safety of cyclists and the right turn lane from Flinders Parade in the development of the proposal did not eventuate.







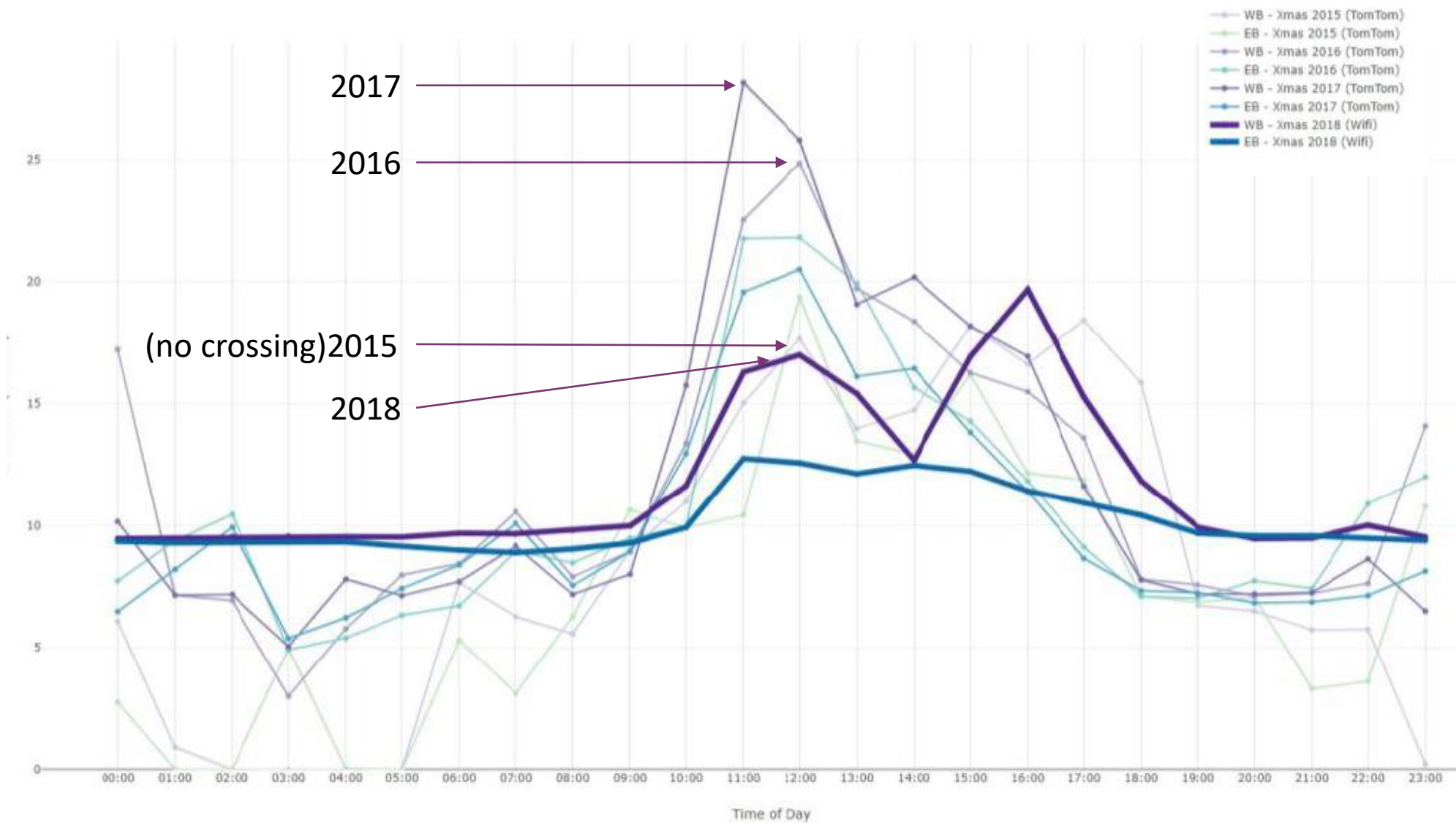
## We reduced congestion in summer



## Results

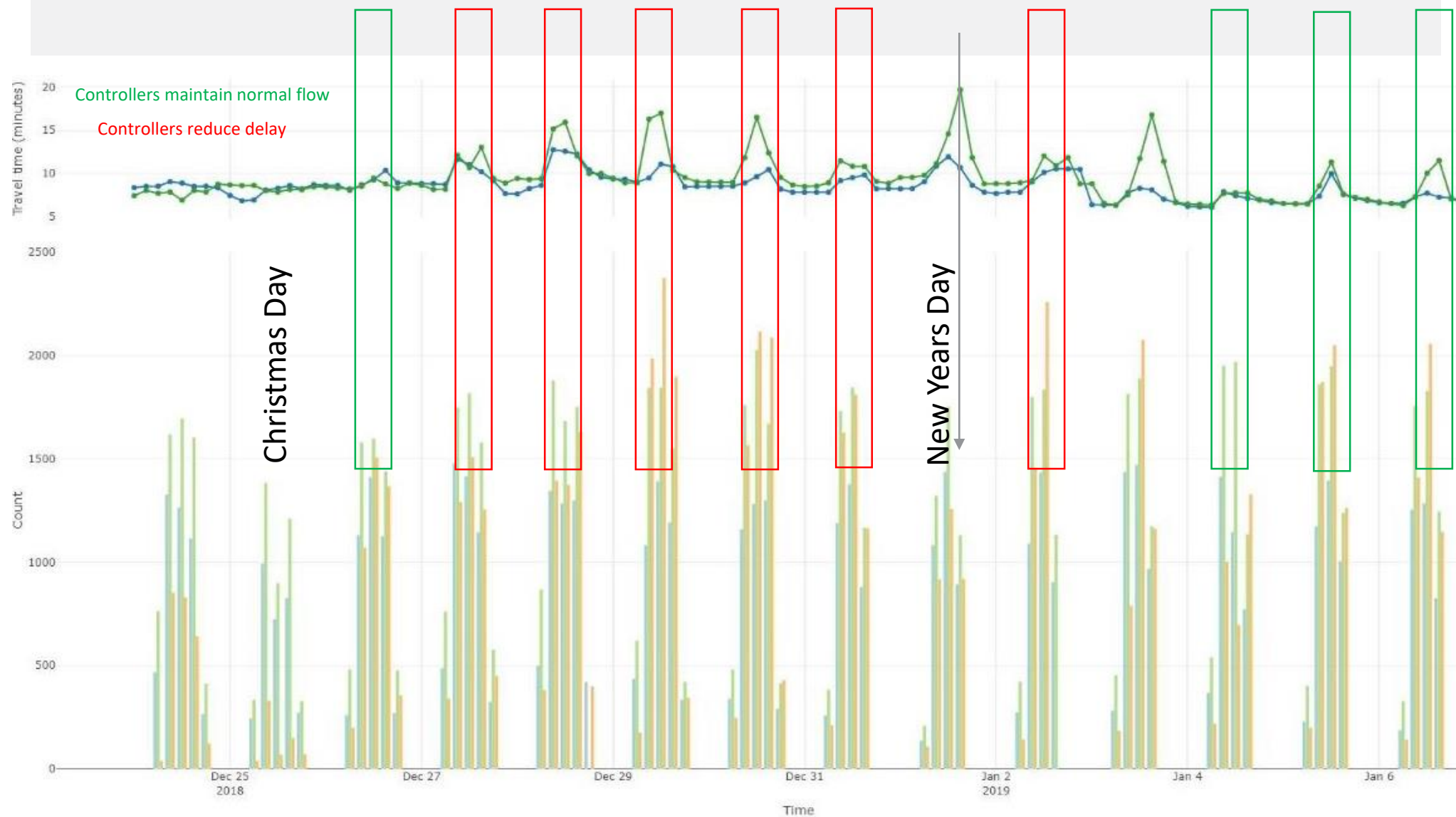
- Reduced delay by up to 10 minutes for traffic travelling from Ocean Grove across the bridge on the busiest summer days.
- Achieved travel times equivalent to pre-pedestrian crossing operation.
- Identified the most efficient times for when traffic controllers reduce delay for traffic.

## Travel times 1 January (between 2015 and 2018)





## Travel times – relationship between pedestrians and vehicle flows



13



## Other improvement opportunities to reduce traffic delays

- On the busiest days, close the right turn into the IGA carpark. Right turning vehicles hold up through traffic.
- Be flexible with the traffic controller operating times, particularly hot afternoons.

Questions?

Thank you.